



# Battling the Burn

## C-130 crews from the 302nd Airlift Wing battle the Hayman and Durango Fires

**By Tech. Sgt. Michael Phillips**

*21st Space Wing Public Affairs*

The 302nd Airlift Wing here began flying specially equipped C-130H3 aircraft June 13 to combat forest fires in Colorado.

Forest fires throughout the state prompted the U.S. Forest Service to request the Department of Defense's Modular Airborne Firefighting System mission. Under an agreement with the Department of Defense and the U.S. Forest Service, MAFFS-equipped C-130s may be used after civilian assets have been exhausted, but further assistance is still needed.

Two 302nd AW C-130s, along with two C-130s from the 145th AW, an Air National Guard unit from Charlotte, N.C., are flying missions from Peterson AFB. The units are two of only four DoD units that fly MAFFS missions. The 302nd AW is the only Reserve unit with MAFFS capability.

The 302nd AW has been called to fight fires in seven of

the nine years it has had the MAFFS mission.

Navy Cmdr. Joe Guerrero, action officer at U.S. Transportation Command, said crews are on orders to provide assistance for 30 days, or until released by the National Forest Service's National Interagency Fire Center. The 302nd AW's longest MAFFS activation was in the summer of 1994, when crews were mobilized from June 26 to Sept. 8.

According to wing officials, this is the first time MAFFS missions are being staged from Peterson to fight Colorado fires.

"Our crews were chomping at the bit for this activation to help fight these forest fires," said Col. Richard Moss, 302nd AW Commander. "They know how challenging it is to fly this particular mission. I'm always impressed with them at how ready and zealous they are to get into the air and help out."

Air Force C-130 crews delivered 29,700 gallons of fire retardant "slurry" to the Hayman fire June 14, before being grounded by severe

weather. Over a two-day period, crews dropped 64,800 gallons of slurry on the Hayman fire during 25 missions.

Slurry is a mix of 80 to 85 percent water, and 10 to 15 percent ammonium sulfate (a jelling agent) and red coloring to help pilots see where they have dropped previous loads.

It takes about two hours to load a MAFFS unit onto a C-130H3 aircraft. Each unit can discharge 28,000 pounds of retardant in 5 seconds, with the 3,000-gallon load covering an area approximately one-quarter mile long and 60 feet wide.

The Hayman fire, which started June 8, crept to within 10 miles of the Denver metropolitan area, forcing residents to evacuate the area. Numerous homes in a 135-square mile area were destroyed.

In addition to the Hayman fire, crews also received launch orders on Monday to help fight a fire 15 miles northeast of Durango, Colo.

"The crews continue to meet the mission requirements placed on them by the U.S.

Forest Service," Moss said. "They are working diligently to help support the Forest Service efforts."

"We take this mission just as serious as our defense missions," said Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Bebow, 302nd Maintenance Squadron superintendent. "From the time of notification, we can have our designated aircraft configured for MAFFS and ready to fly firefighting missions within 24 hours."

Photos and design by Staff Sgt. Josh Clendenen

"The MAFFS mission requires all the concentration a pilot can muster to keep full control of the aircraft at slow speeds and low altitudes," said Col. Wes Langland, 302nd Operations Group commander. "Pilots designated to perform MAFFS missions acquire training throughout the year to fly them safely."

*(U.S. Transportation Command and 302nd AW Public Affairs offices contributed to this story)*



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lono Kollars

**302nd Airlift Wing C-130s equipped with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System like the one shown here, are helping to fight wildfires burning in Colorado.**

**ALERT!!! Pete Complex members effected by the Hayman Fire should go to [petecentral](http://petecentral) or [www.dola.state.co.us/oem/PublicInformation/firebans/sitrep](http://www.dola.state.co.us/oem/PublicInformation/firebans/sitrep) for fire information**



# Everyone's a sensor

By Brig. Gen. Duane Deal  
21st Space Wing Commander

For the first time since 9-11, we've returned to Force Protection Condition Alpha.

In these past nine months, we've been through a host of concerns, to include a number of nationwide non-specific threats. We may never know how our worldwide Force Protection Condition increases deterred malicious activity, but we can be assured that our efforts pay off when we're called to raise our vigilance.

Though we're back at FPCON Alpha, our Security Forces will continue to randomly implement increased security measures -- such as random vehicle searches and 100 percent identification checks.

As we do, we ask you to be a "sensor" — maintaining vigilance, and reporting anything out of the ordinary or suspicious.

Being a sensor also means not joining those tempted to grumble at these pros when there's a random ID check at the entry gate; not being tempted to pass by a suspicious package without alerting anyone of its presence; not being tempted to grouse at exercises testing our capabilities to respond.

As anyone who seriously examines such actions will see, these are all a part of an increased vigilance to protect not just our property resources but also the men, women, and children who live and work in our facilities.

From monitoring the plains to the east, the airport to our south, to gate and fence patrols on our borders, our



Photo by 1st Lt. Mike Andrews

**Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, 21st Space Wing Commander, helps check identification cards at the main gate with (from left to right) Senior Airman Paul Baldwin, Airman 1st Class Rosalin Hunter, and Airman 1st Class Joe Hobert, 21st Security Force Squadron.**

Security Forces and their augmentees are in a 24-hour-a-day quest toward providing unbreached security for our base and its resources.

## Reminder of FPCON Levels and sample actions:

■ Alpha: A general warning of possible terrorist activity which requires increased vigilance, particularly regarding access to our installation.

■ Bravo: An increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activity which, in addition to Alpha actions, requires more visible and tangible measures, such as moving vehicles and other objects away from buildings.

■ Charlie: An incident occurs or intelligence indicates imminent terrorist activity, which, in addition to Alpha and Bravo actions, requires greatly increased measures — to include facility entry check points, suspending non-essential activities, 100 percent ID checks, and restricting uniform wear and government vehicles off the installation.

■ Delta: An incident

occurs on our installation, or intelligence indicates imminent terrorist activity against Front Range assets or Peterson assets is likely. As the highest FPCON level, it includes everything above plus positive identification of all vehicles near key areas, plus searching all packages, briefcases, etc.

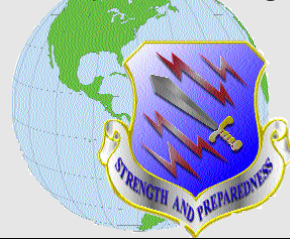
With each higher FPCON level, our Security Forces manning and patrols are increased, so we solicit and expect your cooperation in this duty to protect our resources — which includes you.

Next time you're inconvenienced by a few extra seconds at the gate, or by an exercise in progress, remember it's your protection we're ensuring, and we've still got a collective duty to maintain our vigilance.

As we develop a sense of normalcy, the events of 9-11 and those following are a stark reminder that we cannot and will never let our guard down.

To report anything suspicious, contact Security Forces at 556-4000 or 556-4357.

## 21st Space Wing



# GSU

## At a Glance



**Unit:** Detachment 3, 18th Space Surveillance Squadron

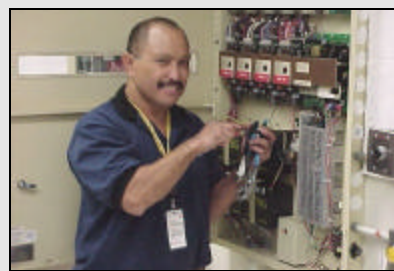
**Location:** Maui, Hawaii

**Mission:** The mission of Detachment 3 is to detect, track and identify all space objects within its area of coverage using the Ground-based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance system and the Maui Space Surveillance System.

Both GEODSS and MSSS provide metric and Space Object Identification data to the Space Control Center and the 1st Command and Control Squadron Control Center at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colo., and the Combined Intelligence Center at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. In addition, the MSSS conducts Research and Development through a tenant Air Force Materiel Command unit, Air Force Research Laboratory.

The GEODSS system performs its mission using three optical telescopes, low light level, electro-optical cameras, and support computers.

The three telescopes include two main telescopes with one meter apertures and a two-degree field of view and one auxiliary telescope with a .4 meter aperture and a six-degree field of view.



Courtesy photo

## Workin' hard in Maui

**Roland Eharis, a facility mechanic, does checks on the fire control panel.**



# Space Observer

Published by the Gazette, 30 S. Prospect Street, Box 1779, Colorado Springs, 80901, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 21st Space Wing. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 21st Space Wing Public Affairs Office, 775 Loring Ave., Suite 218, Peterson AFB, Colo., 80914-1294. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

The Space Observer is published every Friday. For advertising inquiries, call the Gazette, (719) 476-1640 for display ads, and 476-1685 for classified ads.

Articles for the Space Observer should be submitted to the 21st SW/PAI, Attn: Space Observer, 775 Loring Ave., Ste. 218, Peterson AFB, Colo., 80914-1294 or e-mail [space.observer@peterson.af.mil](mailto:space.observer@peterson.af.mil). Deadline for submission is 4:30 p.m. the Wednesday one week before publication. All articles, copy and announcements submitted will be edited to conform to AFI Series 35 and the Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual. For details, call the editor at (719) 556-8476 or DSN 834-7846.

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## A Moment in Time: June



■ On June 24, 1943, Lt. Col. W. R. Lovelace made a record parachute jump from 42,200 feet.

■ On June 26, 1948, the Berlin Airlift was initiated in response to the Russian blockade.

■ On June 27, 1950, the first enemy aircraft was shot down in the Korean Conflict.

■ On June 22, 1960, the U.S. successfully launched the first multiple independently instrumented satellites by a single rocket.

*Information courtesy of Staff Sgt. Trisha Morgan, 21st Space Wing History Office*



## News

# 'Clear' and present danger

## 100-acre fire threatens Alaska radar station, local town

By 1st Lt. Mike J. Tkacz  
13th Space Warning Squadron

Memorial Day weekend quickly turned out to be a brush with disaster for Clear Air Force Station, Alaska, as a forest fire raged out of control in the nearby community of Anderson May 25.

With Anderson only 6 miles from Clear, this blaze posed a serious threat to the 21st Space Wing's highest priority resource within the state of Alaska.

More specifically, Clear's Phased Array Radar Site, which is used for the early detection of any inbound missiles, was in the direct path of the fire.

The wind began to blow the fire toward the site as it quickly spread. Firefighting crews had to act fast to stop the rapidly approaching flames.

Clear's firefighters were among the first to arrive on-scene after receiving a call from the all-volunteer fire department in Anderson.

The fire had reached within three and a half miles of the Clear PAVE PAWS Radar site. Because of the potential threat to the base, Master Sgt. Gary Ellis, Clear's Fire Chief, organized a

reserve force that could quickly move in to protect base resources from the approaching flames.

The extent of the fire led to the involvement of outside agencies to battle more than 100 acres of enflamed woodland.

"The decision was made early to involve outside agencies during the first stages of the fire," said Maj. Glen Shepherd, Director of Operations, 13th Space Warning Squadron. "The fire almost immediately approached nearby structures that could have easily become engulfed in flames, threatening mission and support facilities, and resulting in a forced evacuation of base personnel. Additionally, our PAVE PAWS site is simply too important of a resource to allow anything to threaten our operations."

The State Forestry Service of Alaska received the call from Clear and had the first aircraft on the scene within 45 minutes.

Within a short time, they had provided a total of three tankers, four helicopters, and three attack aircraft from Fort Wainwright and other surrounding areas.



Photos by Carl T. Southwood

**An observer watches a forest fire as it burns near Clear Air Force Station, Alaska. The fire burned more than 100 acres.**

The attack aircraft served as a guide for the tankers that released more than 7,000 gallons of flame retardant chemicals into the flames in an effort to extinguish the fire.

The State Forestry Service of Alaska also provided a dozen fire jumpers who acted as quick attacks, serving to smother any small fires that had the potential to spread. The jumpers also set up landing zones for aircraft.

Alaska State Troopers and the nearby Nenana Police were also called in to provide support. Together with Team Clear, more than 75 Anderson residents were evacuated, minimizing the possibility of injuries.

"I can't find the words to tell you how much it means to me and the rest of the community, it was an amazing response," said Karen Shields, Mayor of Anderson. "I'm afraid that if (the) Clear Fire Department had not been there, our facilities and park would have

been lost."

"It was simply a courageous effort on the part of every first responder, and their efforts were supported by local community leaders," said Shepherd. "Everyone integrated into an effective force, and displayed a high degree of professionalism and skill to perform the job. I was proud of the reaction of the military personnel led by the Clear Fire Department, including both state and local agencies.

During the last year, I've seen these dedicated Fire Department and Security Forces personnel train hard and prepare for these types of events," said Shepard. "Their ability to play a vital part in helping our friends and neighbors in Anderson is just one example of how their hard work pays off for all of us."

Although the fire has been extinguished, the cause is still unknown and is under investigation.



**Fire crews look on as the fire burns near Anderson, Alaska. Anderson is only six miles from Clear Air Force Station.**

## News Briefs

### WATER RESTRICTIONS

Due to severe drought conditions, Peterson Air Force Base and Colorado Springs have gone to Stage II water restrictions.

During Stage II, residents should only water their lawns in the early morning or late evening. Excessive water use will be closely monitored.

Also during Stage II, the car wash will be closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If Phase III is implemented, the car wash will be closed.

Watch the base marquees and the *Space Observer* for the latest water restriction stages and changes.

### STOP LOSS UPDATE

Two deadlines have been set concerning this month's Stop Loss release announcement.

For members whose retirement or separation date was cancelled or suspended due to Stop Loss, the following

deadlines apply:

■ Anyone who intends to separate or start terminal leave in July must turn in a letter of intent to the military personnel flight by Monday.

■ Anyone who plans to separate or start terminal leave after Aug. 1 must turn in a letter of intent by July 15.

For details, call 556-7184.

### OFF LIMITS AREAS

As a reminder to base residents, all construction areas and the equipment inside them are off limits.

### TAXIS AND FOOD DELIVERY

The 21st Security Forces Squadron has developed a process to allow taxis and food delivery on base.

Provide the driver with an accurate phone number so the entry controller can call you when the food is at the gate. Once the delivery is verified, the driver will be let on base. If you are unreachable, the delivery will be turned

away.

All taxis coming on base will be searched.

For more information, call Security Forces at 556-4000.

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN GAMES

Volunteers are needed for the Rocky Mountain State Games, which are scheduled for Aug. 2-4.

The games take place at the Air Force Academy and volunteers are needed for a number of different areas.

To volunteer, call 634-7333, extension 1009.

### ALS OPENING

There is a job opening at the Peterson Air Force Base Airman Leadership School.

The school is accepting applications for a Flight Chief. Applications will be accepted through Aug. 15.

For more information, or to find out what to include in the application

package, call Master Sgt. Joey Quiroz at 556-7737 or Tech. Sgt. Kevin Allen at 556-4940.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Family Support Center is coordinating a volunteer effort to help with various aspects of the Hayman Fire.

Anyone interested in volunteering should call Jim Reynolds at 556-9268.

### NEW ID CARDS

The transition to the new identification cards is underway.

A mobile registration unit will be on base 7:30-11 a.m. and 12:15-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, through Aug. 4.

Only active-duty members, Department of Defense civilians and eligible contractors can get the new card.

To make an appointment for the new card, contact your orderly room.



# Common Access Cards being issued

By 2nd Lt. Suzy Kohout  
*21st Space Wing Public Affairs*

It's time to head over to the Military Personnel Flight to renew your identification cards.

The Public Key Infrastructure mobile training team is here and is ready to assist members in activating their new cards.

The mobile team is located in a white truck unit that looks like a blood donor vehicle, next to the mission support squadron building.

The team is comprised of contractors hired by the Air Force who travel in the continental U.S., updating Department of Defense ID cards used by the military.

The new common access card uses PKI technology that allows access to required network users.

"It's the new wave of the Air Force," said Master Sgt. Nancy Jackson, 21st Mission Support Squadron military personnel flight customer service superintendent. "In the near future everyone will have card readers on their computers, and the card will access the network."

To get the new CAC,

individuals must bring their current ID. A form will be filled out that outlines responsibilities as a CAC holder. Then each person will need to select a personnel identification number, to be used to grant access to the network.

"CAC use is paramount due to real world and World Wide Web security," said Daniel Calderon, logistics management specialist.

The MPF and the mobile training unit will be issuing new cards over the next month. Units from base will contact their members for receiving the CAC at the MPF or the mobile unit.

These cards are only available to 21 NET account users.

The common access card is a new DoD directive.

It is a credit card-sized ID card that contains an integrated circuit chip, a magnetic strip, bar codes, and a color photo of the owner.

The new CAC now holds coded information such as weight, hair and eye color. The old card contained this information on the back.

The back of the CAC will only display your blood type, organ donor, date of birth and social security number.



Photo by Mike Brown

**Tech. Sgt. Karen Westing, 21st Comptroller Squadron, gets her new identification card at the mobile trailer in front of the Mission Support Squadron building**

The Air Force's uses smart-card technology by PKI. PKI is made up of the personnel, policies, procedures, and components to enable cryptographic functions.

These functions are stored in a mini gold chip on the card. This chip has three electronic certificates, said 2nd Lt. David Buhl, 21st Communication Squadron.

The first certificate authenticates your user ID and password. The second gives individuals a digital signature. The last certificate uses a private and a public key, to encrypt and decrypt.

The private key places a digital signature on documents and outgoing e-mail for the user, and also decrypts incoming e-mail. The public key ver-

ifies the user's digital signature and encrypts a message reply back to them.

The chip is good for three years. After this period, individuals are required to update necessary information on their CAC.

For more information about the new CAC, contact Master Sgt. Jackson at 556-4680.

## REMINDER:

Peterson is currently  
at:  
**Water  
Restriction  
Stage II**

## Have a story idea?

Let us know  
by calling us  
at 556-4351  
or by e-mail  
at  
*space.observer@  
peterson.af.mil*

## Straight Talk Line

**556-9154**  
Call the 21st  
Space Wing  
Straight Talk  
Line for current  
information on  
real-world wing  
events as well  
as exercises.

## News

# We're off to the rodeo

By Christie Bond  
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

With the arrival of summer, planning for the 62nd Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo has kicked into full gear.

The 2002 rodeo will be Aug. 7-11 at its new home at the Colorado Springs World Arena.

The indoor location will prevent weather delays and cancellations and offer improved parking, seating and restroom facilities.

The Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo ranks in the top five percent of all Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeos in the country, drawing the best cowboys and cowgirls in the sport to compete for more than \$200,000 in prize money.

Rodeo events are broken into two categories, rough stock events and timed events.

Rough stock events include bareback riding, saddle bronc riding and bull riding.

The timed events are calf roping, steer wrestling and team roping, as well as cowgirls' barrel racing.

Several events are scheduled prior to the rodeo.

The Girl of the West (the rodeo queen) and her aide will be at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station July 9 and



Photo by Tech Sgt. Alex Lloyd

**A rodeo clown watches as a cowboy tries to hang on for eight seconds during last year's Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo. The rodeo is scheduled for Aug. 7-11 this year.**

Peterson Air Force Base July 11 to promote the rodeo and visit with troops.

The annual Street Breakfast will be July 20, beginning at 5:30 a.m. in downtown Colorado Springs.

The rodeo committee hopes that moving this event to the weekend will allow more families to attend.

The Rodeo Parade is scheduled for 10 a.m. Aug. 3, along Tejon Street.

Each night of the rodeo is dedicated to an area military installation.

The Aug. 7 rodeo is dedicated to the North American Aerospace Defense and U.S. Space Command; the Aug. 8 rodeo is Air Force Space

Command Night; Aug. 9 is Ft. Carson Night and Aug. 10 is the Air Force Academy Night.

All evening performances begin at 7 p.m. The finals will be during the Sunday matinee performance starting at 1:30 p.m., and will be broadcast live on ESPN2.

Proceeds from the rodeo go to military family programs at local installations.

Last year, Peterson AFB received \$10,000 for Caring Through Sharing, the Youth Center and the Food Pantry.

Tickets can be purchased at a discounted rate of \$27 for lower-level seats, \$13 for upper-level seats and \$10.25 for higher seats at the Peterson Community Center, 556-1734.

## Clinic offering school, camp, sports physicals

By Maj. Shannon Lynch  
810th Medical Group

In an effort to better support the Peterson Complex Community, the 810th Medical Operations Squadron will be offering walk-in service for sports, camp and school physicals throughout June, August and September.

The first opportunity for physicals will be from 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, the physicals

will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

In order to expedite completion of the physicals, parents are asked to bring their child's proof of immunizations and any forms required by the school, camp, or sport activity. Check-in for the physicals will be in the Pediatric Clinic.

Although this is a walk-in program, all parents or guardians are asked to call 556-2273 to register. This will

allow the clinic staff to prepare for the number of people planning to bring their children in for physicals.

We ask that the patient history portion of the form be completed prior to arrival. These forms will be available at the commissary, Pediatric Clinic or electronically, by e-mailing [olaf.stoll@peterson.af.mil](mailto:olaf.stoll@peterson.af.mil).

For details on the walk-in physicals, call 556-2273.

## Civilian struck in on-base crosswalk

*Accident may have been prevented*

By Tech. Sgt. Michael Phillips  
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

A civilian employee was struck by a eastbound vehicle as he crossed Stewart Avenue at about 5 p.m. June 14.

The 59-year-old Army and Air Force Exchange Service employee was in the crosswalk behind the base exchange when he was struck by a black Chevrolet pickup.

A patrol was requested by the Colorado Spring Police Department to assist in the accident investigation.

Accident investigators on the scene noted that rainy weather was apparently a contributing factor to the accident.

The driver of the pickup, an active-duty military member, was cited for careless driving causing injury, and for unsafe or defective motor vehicle.

The airman was determined to be driving too fast for the conditions, with windshield wipers that were not working.

The victim was transported to Memorial Hospital, where it was discovered he had suffered a fractured skull, requiring nine staples to close. His leg was fractured in three places and required surgery to implant a rod into the leg.

His condition is currently being monitored to ensure his spleen is functioning properly.

"In crosswalks, pedestrians have the right of way, and drivers have a requirement to yield to them," said Maj. Pat Goodman, 21st

Space Wing Safety Officer. "By the same token, pedestrians also have a responsibility to make sure they won't create a hazard to oncoming traffic before they step off the curb into the roadway."

"Because of the lower speeds we operate on base, and because we want to be looking out for each other, we shouldn't have pedestrians being struck by vehicles," added Goodman.

"Off base, there's a certain 'driving mentality' that's completely different than what's acceptable on base," Goodman said. "I'm concerned that people bring their aggressive driving habits on base."

"We need to make it clear to people," Goodman said. "When you cross that line that says 'Welcome to Peterson Air Force Base,' welcome to a whole different way of driving your car."

According to Master Sgt. Scott McCalla, 21st Security Forces Squadron Superintendent of Police Services, supervisor involvement is key to ensuring people are aware of the "rules of the road" on base – for drivers as well as pedestrians.

"We've conducted a survey of high traffic areas on base," Goodman said. "There will be signs going up alerting motorists to the presence of the crosswalk and requiring people to use the crosswalks in those areas."

According to McCalla, Security Forces will be paying close attention to crosswalks to ensure pedestrians use them especially in high traffic areas and that vehicles yield the right of way to pedestrians attempting to use the crosswalks.



# Shirts job to change Oct. 1

By Tech. Sgt.  
Jurita G. Barber  
[Air Force Print News](#)

The job of first sergeant in the Air Force will become a special duty assignment Oct. 1, according to the first sergeant career field manager at the Pentagon.

As a result, new first sergeants will no longer be required to cross-train into the job, and most can return to their old Air Force specialty after a three-year tour, said Senior Master Sgt. Michael Gilbert.

The change comes as a result of a 15-month review by the office of the chief master sergeant of the Air Force. The current first sergeant program fails to meet Air Force needs, Gilbert said.

"We have 1,200 active-duty first sergeant positions, and we are currently short 120 people in meeting our program needs," he said. "This translates into about 20,000 Air Force troops, commanders and family members not being properly served."

A major goal of the change is to attract more senior enlisted leaders, some of whom may not have wanted to

permanently leave their functional specialty, Gilbert said. Unlike the current cross-training program, the special duty program is designed to return members to their original career field after serving as first sergeants.

The new program will broaden the experiences of more noncommissioned officers and better prepare them to serve as senior enlisted leaders in their functional areas and beyond, Gilbert explained.

"This program will help us deliberately develop some of the top enlisted leaders we will need in the future," he said.

Tour lengths will also change. The first tour will be three years. About two years into the tour, the member can apply for another three-year tour and, depending on Air Force needs, may be selected for a second tour.

First sergeants will continue to test for promotion against others with the special

duty skill, Gilbert said. "While promotion rates for those in first sergeant assignments have historically lagged behind Air Force averages, we found those returning to their functional communities do very well promotion-wise," he said. "Their experience is obviously highly valued."

After Oct. 1, the changes will be phased in as new people come into the program.

While many new first sergeants will be required to return to their old career fields, those already serving as first sergeants can remain in the first sergeant program or return to their previous jobs.

"These folks stepped up and did what we asked them to do," Gilbert said. "They've served us well, and we need many of them to continue on as first sergeants. But we do want to give them a greater opportunity than they currently have, to go out and do more good stuff for the Air Force."

For more information, contact the 21st Mission Support Squadron Retraining section at 556-6251.



## AFOTEC changes leadership June 14

By 2nd Lt.  
Suzy Kohout  
[21st Space Wing Public Affairs](#)

Col. Gary H. Cole relinquished command of the Air Force Operational Test Evaluation Center here to Lt. Col. Paul J. Pabich in a change of command ceremony June 14.

"Over the past couple years Cole has improved relationships between AFOTEC and space command, and I'm sure that Pabich will continue that tradition," said Maj. Gen. William Peck, AFOTEC commander.

Cole will take command of Air Combat Command Directorate of Requirements at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia as the chief of the Electronic

Warfare and Survivability Division.

Pabich has been associated with space operations for quite some time. His experience includes space surveillance, missile warning, satellite command and control operations, and operational testing of those systems.

He has served as a training officer, chief of tactical operations, executive officer and commanded Detachment 1. Pabich was also a Deputy Commander of Air and Space Mission Directorate headquarters.

He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics at the University of Wisconsin in 1980, followed by a master's degree in space operations at the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1985.

## Interested in Air Force opportunities?

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# A T Y O U R S E R V I C E

## Dive into SCUBA classes at Outdoor Rec

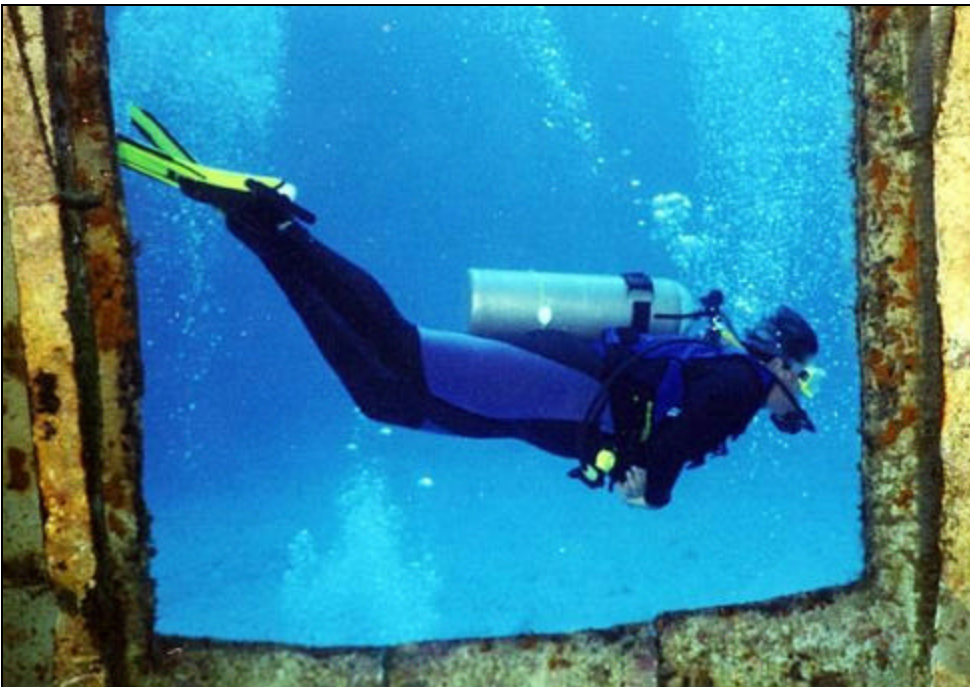
By Margie Arnold  
21st Services Marketing

With the countryside drier than a bone and the fire danger often in the extreme category, camping in Colorado may not be a viable option for outdoor recreation this summer.

With that in mind, Outdoor Recreation has created a pretty thrilling alternative that offers you adventure, the opportunity to explore unknown territory, and have lots of fun, too. It's self-contained underwater breathing apparatus diving.

If you have always toyed with the idea of scuba diving in tropical waters in exotic locations, this might be your chance to give it a try. To see if scuba diving is something you might like to pursue as a recreational adventure, Outdoor Recreation is presenting Discover Scuba, an opportunity to sample this sport.

Discover Scuba puts you in the water for two hours with all the gear used in the actual scuba dive. A certification classes. Three Discover Scuba classes are scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 1, and Aug. 29, from 8-10 p.m. at



Photos by Troy Juth

A diver from Underwater Connection explores a wreckage.

the Peterson Aquatics Center. The cost is \$10, which covers the cost of after-hour lifeguards.

The classes are limited to 20 people, so sign up for your preferred date at Outdoor Recreation, Bldg. 675 or by calling 556-4867.

If you enjoy the Discover Scuba class and think you want to pursue this

underwater adventure even further, three scuba certification classes are being offered July 1, Aug. 5 and Sept. 2.

Again, the classes include all of your equipment, instruction at Aquatics Center with several dive sessions, lodging and four open dives in Blue Hole, Santa Rosa, N.M., and transportation. The scuba Certification class lasts about three weeks. The cost is \$289 per person.

You will learn about dive principles, equipment, and the physical and well-being requirements needed in order to obtain your PADI certification, which is recognized throughout the world.

Scuba certification classes are limited to 12 people. Anyone interested can sign up at Outdoor Recreation, Bldg. 675, or by calling 556-4867.

All Discover Scuba and scuba certification classes are taught by The Underwater Connection and hosted by Peterson Outdoor Recreation.

For details, call 556-4867.



A diver from Underwater Connection explores a wreckage.

### SERVICES CALENDARS

At the Officers' Club	June 25-- Steak night, 6-8 p.m.	June 26-- Mongolian Barbecue, 6-8 p.m.	June 28-- Live Maine lobster, \$15.95 for members	July 4- The club will be closed for the holiday.
At the Enlisted Club	June 26-- Cajun buffet, 5-7 p.m. \$5.95 for members	July 3-- Mexican food buffet, 5-7 p.m., \$5.95 for members	July 4- The club will be closed for the holiday.	July 24-- Oriental food buffet, 5-7 p.m., \$5.95 for members
At Silver Spruce Golf Course	July 4-- Open play all day	July 5-- Ladies day	July 6-- Junior golf, noon-12:30 p.m.	July 15-19-- Kids golf camp, 9 a.m.-noon

### This Week

#### Today

- Mothers on the Move, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Family Advocacy Center.
- Region director's sale, at the commissary.

#### Monday

- Mothers on the Move, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Family Advocacy Center.

#### Tuesday

- Only the resource room and loan closet will be open in the Family Support Center.

#### Wednesday

- Mothers on the Move, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Family Advocacy Center.
- Only the resource room and loan closet will be open in the Family Support Center.

#### Thursday

- Play group, 10:30 a.m.-noon, at the chapel.
- Job orientation, 1-2:30 p.m., at the Family Support Center.
- Commissary/BX Advisory Council meeting, 2 p.m., in the commissary conference room.

#### June 28

- Mothers on the Move, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Family Advocacy Center.
- Estate planning seminar, 1-4 p.m., at the Family Support Center.

### Helpful Numbers

- Family Advocacy 556-8943
- Education Center 556-4064
- Library 556-7462
- Community Center 556-7671
- Aquatics Center 556-4608
- Fitness Center 556-4462
- Officers' Club 556-4181
- Enlisted Club 556-4194
- Youth Center 556-7220
- Family Support 556-6141
- Chapel 556-4442
- Red Cross 556-9201
- Aragon Menu Line 556-4782

### This Week



Staff Sgt. Michelle Wolff, a hazardous materials specialist, helps Airman 1st Class Cory Bahl with his HAZMAT suit.



Wolff puts an oxygen tank on Bahl's back allowing him to breathe in his suit.



Senior Airman Donny Turner, also a HAZMAT specialist, straightens out Senior Airman Wayne Johansen's regulator.



Staff Sgt. Chris Lawver, a HAZMAT specialist, tests a sample in a Level II Biosafety Containment System. The system is informally known as the "glove box."

# Peterson's HAZMAT team -- First responders

Photos and story by  
Staff Sgt. Melanie Epperson  
21st Space Wing Public Affairs

The 810th Medical Group Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight has many responsibilities at Peterson Air Force Base and in the surrounding area.

The flight recently received new equipment to help build up its Homeland Security Response program, which supports the 21st and the 50th Space Wings.

"Last year, Peterson became one of 11 bases to implement a first responders program," said Aerospace Flight Commander Col. Gene Killan. "After Sept. 11, we received additional funding for the program and were able to buy a truck and trailer for our first response program."

The trailer is equipped with general response equipment like suits and respiratory protection. It is also equipped with enough equipment, according to Killan, to respond to special hazardous material incidents, such as terrorist activity that includes nuclear, biological and chemical threats.

"We are responsible for about a 143,000-square-mile area. If there is an aircraft accident or terrorist activity within that area, we will respond to it," Killan said.

The bioenvironmental engineers also have mutual-aid agreements for assistance in the local area, Killan added.

"If there is a local incident too big for us to handle, we can call the Colorado Springs Station 6 Hazardous Materials Unit, or vice versa," he said.

Once the engineers get the call informing them of an incident, the initial response team and back up team are mobilized, Killan said. Team members collect samples from inside the hot zone, which is the immediate area affected by contamination, to assess conditions there and decide which protective measures are required. The team is not responsible for rescue, however. The local firefighter's hazardous materials team responds to any real-world incident along with Bioenvironmental Engineering's first response team.

According to Killan, it is the firefighter's job to bring the injured out of the hot zone to be

decontaminated, if necessary, by medics.

Emergency response analysis is performed on site using hand-held meters and test kits, and in the Bioenvironmental Engineering office if more testing is required.

"If we suspect a substance is truly hazardous, we don't want to remove it to test it," said Mike Puleo, Environmental Protection Manager. "If a sample tests positive for a biological agent, we send it to lab certified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for further testing."

An example of what Bioenvironmental Engineers do can be found in last year's incident at Peterson's Commissary.

In December, an individual dropped a yellow powder inside the commissary. The first response team arrived in chemical splash suits with self-contained breathing apparatus, and collected and analyzed the powder. The on-site kit categorized the powder, but more testing was required.

"Once it was determined to be a malicious incident, the area became a crime scene, and our procedures had to change a little bit," Killan said. "It was like a detective's process."

The substance was eventually determined to be tear gas powder.

Responding to emergencies is not the Bioenvironmental Flight's only responsibility. They not only respond to emergencies, they try to detect and prevent hazardous conditions before they become emergency situations.

"We also visit work places to observe any hazards that might be there," Killan said. "We interview people and measure things like noise, radiation and chemicals to see if the workers are exposed to any hazards, and how these hazards might affect their work."

For example, Killan said, an Air Force member might be exposed to certain levels of radiation

accidentally. Members of the Bioenvironmental Flight do what is equivalent to a mishap investigation. They look at the individual and the source to see what kind of damage might have been done, and determine if the member is still able to work.

"A while back, at Clear Air Force Station, Alaska, some local firefighters were responding to a forest fire," said Capt. Randall McVay, Environmental Support chief. "They were flying in helicopters to get to the fire, and they believed they passed through the BMEWS radar signal."

We worked with OSHA to investigate the incident and to make sure they weren't affected, he said. Then, we reported our findings.

According to Staff Sgt. Michelle Wolff, hazardous materials specialist, flight members handle many requests for noise surveys and indoor air quality at Peterson.

The flight members must also make sure exposure levels, if any, don't exceed standards set by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

In addition, the flight is responsible for environmental sampling.

"We monitor drinking water to make sure it meets standards," Killan said. "We also monitor waste-water quality. Since Peterson is connected to the city sewer system, we have to make sure the water leaving the base meets standards, so that the city of Colorado Springs can meet their EPA requirements."

The Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight members must be proactive to meet mission requirements.

"As engineers, we try to provide solutions to the problems we detect," said Capt. LeeAnn Racz, Operational Support Chief. "Not only do we monitor, we must also design corrective actions."

*"We are responsible for about a 143,000-square-mile area. If there is an aircraft accident or terrorist activity within that area, we will respond to it."*

Col. Gene Killan  
Aerospace Flight Commander





# Enlisted Viewpoint: *Enlisted professional development*

By Tech. Sgt.  
Ronald Duncan  
21st Communications Squadron

When I was asked to write an article from the enlisted standpoint, my response was, “Sure, how long and on what topic?” That’s where the problem started.

Since there was no set topic, I could choose to write on whatever I wanted. So, I spent a day or two trying to think of a topic that would be of interest to my enlisted brethren.

As a recent graduate of the Forrest L. Vosler NCO Academy, I considered writing about that experience. I could include the fact that I wasn’t looking forward to going because I thought it would be boring and that they wouldn’t teach me anything new.

Then, I could explain how I actually enjoyed the class and the educational benefits, and how my instructors and classmates made it interesting. I could also explain how the curriculum is divided into three areas: communication, leadership and profession of arms, and how each one offers something of value for everyone. Of course, I’d mention all the classroom discussion, and how we were all able to learn something from each other.

I would conclude the article with something like, “When I look back on the experience, I’m grateful I went and will encourage others to attend when they have the opportunity.”

The problem with an article like that is it only targets a portion of the enlisted force.

I decided to talk with other members of my squadron. As I did, I found NCOs and Senior NCOs who had recently attended the local enlisted professional development seminars. Their experiences were similar to mine at the academy.

Some of them went to the seminars expecting little, but brought back some new tools and valuable information. All of them were thankful they’d taken the opportunity to attend.

They talked about the impact enlisted professional development briefings had on leadership, ethics and job performance. After talking with them, I thought I had enough for my article. But then I realized I was neglecting professional military education for our airmen.

Since I wanted to men-

tion their PME, I talked to a senior airman in our unit who recently graduated from Airman Leadership School and was the John L. Levitow winner and an Honor Graduate.

His comments echoed the Senior NCO’s comments as well as mine. He didn’t expect much when he started ALS, but by the time he graduated, he was glad he attended.

He learned quite a bit from the curriculum, and he, too, learned a great deal from his classmates. Now I was sure I had the topic for my article, “The benefits of PME within our enlisted force.” I was ready to start writing the article.

Actually, by that point, most of the article was written. We need PME and EPD programs more now than ever.

Our formal training courses are not just blocks we need to fill so we can get our next stripe -- they are essential for enlisted professional development. They help prepare us for additional responsibilities by improving our skills as leaders and managers.

The same can be said for the EPD seminars. They can help prepare us to attend the formal courses, or hone our skills, especially if it has been a while since we attended PME.

Know when you’re eligible to attend any of the formal courses and when the EPD seminars are offered. If you’re a supervisor, you should also know this information. Keep in mind, these courses will not only help you now in your Air Force career, but also in your next career, whatever it may be.



Check out the  
**Space Observer** online at  
[www.spaceobserver.com](http://www.spaceobserver.com)



# Take me out to the ball game

By 1st Lt. Mike Andrews  
[21st Space Wing Public Affairs](#)

Take me out to the ballgame, take me out to the crowd, are popular words that announce the beginning of baseball and softball season every year.

This year's intramural softball season started a couple of weeks ago with teams in several leagues competing to win the base championship trophy in their respective divisions.

This week Team 21st Space Wing/Director of Staff and the 21st Civil Engineer Squadron met on a very windy and smoky Tuesday evening to play a great game of softball.

The DS team, led by coach Woody Fogleman, started the first inning by scoring five runs.

The CE men didn't fare so well in the first. They were sat down with three straight outs.

Maybe that helped to spark their offense because their bats came alive in the second.

The team started batting base hits and tied the score in the fifth.

Team DS responded by hitting the ball well and knocking in a few runs. Left fielder Pat Krill showed off his batting skills and speed by hitting an inside-the-park homerun down the first baseline.

The last inning started with the score 10-9 and team DS went three up and three down in the top of the seventh. Team CE needed one run to tie, and two runs to win.

A base hit scored the tying run in the seventh, and after a pop fly, the winning run was hit in on a line drive to left field.

Sportsmanship and great play are what makes softball such a fun game. Come out and support your team.

The men's leagues are Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and the co-ed is also



James Parker, pitcher for Team DS, steps into a pitch from Mario Gonzalez, 21st CES. Team DS lost the game 11-10.



Woody Fogleman, third baseman for Team DS, swats a ground ball toward third base.



Mario Gonzalez, pitcher for the 21st Civil Engineer Squadron, stares down Pat Krill, left fielder for Team D.S., as Krill steps up to bat.